

The Sword

Volume 30, Issue 12

Concordia College, 275 North Syndicate, St. Paul, MN 55104

Friday May 19, 1995

Congrats 1995 Grads!

by Theresa Seto

Spring has finally arrived in Saint Paul bringing sunshine, blooming flowers, green grass, and budding trees, as well as final projects, papers, and exams. The most exciting aspect of spring, especially for this year's seniors, is none other than graduation. Four or more grueling years of hard work and due dates, late night cramming, and procrastination will finally come to a close for these students. A moment long awaited, to shout some famous phrases: "I did it!" "It's finally over!" "I can't believe it went so fast!" and "I need to find a job to pay off my loans!"

Ceremonies

This year's baccalaureate and graduation will be held on Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27, respectively. These two separate ceremonies will honor the 400 graduates of 1995. The Baccalaureate service will be held on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. in the Buetow Music Center Auditorium. Several CSP musical performances will also be held that evening to celebrate graduation.

At 3:45 p.m. in the Student Union, CSP's band will hold a Pops Concert and the Christus Chorus Recital will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Buetow Music Center Auditorium. A reception will follow after the Baccalaureate ceremony at 9:00 p.m. outside the music center.

Graduation Commencement will be held on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the Gangelhoff Center and will last approximately two hours. This year's graduation speakers are Jerry Hays from Fort Worth, Texas, who will be representing the Traditional School and Nancy Novy, from Duluth, Minnesota, who will be representing CSAL. The theme the two speakers will be addressing centers around the question, "Where does your CSP education place you in a world entering the 21st century?"

The distinguished speaker for this year's Commencement will be State Representative, Alice Hausman, District 66B.

Danette Griffith, Director of Special Events, states, "Graduation is really a celebration, a high point of the whole academic year"; it is a way to

put closure to a student's education. But if you do not plan on joining in on the graduation ceremony, don't get distressed. Griffith will be sending out a program and a tassel in June or July to the approximately 100 graduates who will not be attending the ceremony. If there are any questions regarding graduation, please contact Danette Griffith at X224.

And again, to all 1995 Graduates, Congratulations; *The Sword* wishes each of you the best of luck!

Students React

The Sword asked several spring graduates to share with us their feelings about graduation. They said the following:

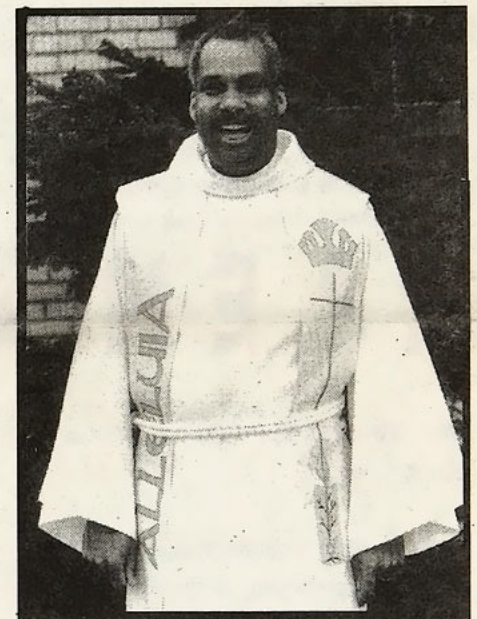
Christian Schiller: "I'm thrilled to get out of college FINALLY...it would be nice to have a job, though. I guess I'll miss rolling out of bed five minutes before class...I've heard that you can't wear a baseball cap to work everyday."

Sheryl Trittin: "I feel that I'm ready to leave Concordia, but not the college environment. I think I could stay in college for a long time and be

quite comfortable with it. My future plans are to pay off my loans and then wander the earth."

Scott Alewine: "I'm happy to graduate and to move on to my career and to thank my parents for their underlying support."

Erica Wentzel: "After six years and numerous classes, I'm at a loss for words...all I can say is I've got a job doing what I do best...education...I've said it all."†



CSP's new Pastor Gerald Coleman has brought many smiles to the faces of CSP students. For more on Pastor Coleman, see Variety...Pg. 4.

the quarter system students were able to withstand a class they did not like, since it only went one quarter. The semester is much longer."

Schoenbeck assured me that the graduation requirements for those caught in the middle will not change. The program will be designed around those who started on quarters but need to finish on semesters. While the Council continues their research, they will be seeking input from the students, administration, library division, financial aid, athletic division, and other faculty groups within the college. A final decision is targeted for next fall.†

C.U.S. Could Force CSP to Semesters

by Daisy Rinella

If you have heard whispers of a possible shift from quarters to semesters at Concordia St. Paul, you have heard correctly. There are ten colleges in the Concordia University System; eight have switched to a semester program and River Forest is currently in the decision making process, possibly leaving just St. Paul as the last campus on the quarter system. This shift has been under discussion for many years, but the push to take a closer look at changing has come from the state of Minnesota. In both the House and the Senate there is legislation pending which would require all public institutions to adapt to the semester program.

Although this does not directly affect Concordia College, it does affect the transferring process and the exchange programs Concordia is able to offer. For the next few months, the

Academic Council will be studying the advantages and disadvantages of making a change into semesters. They will then bring a recommendation to the faculty in August. Should the Council decide to make the change to semesters, it will not be immediately. The faculty will look at how the community colleges approach this change, decide on a specific semester system that will work for the St. Paul's campus, and eventually design new programs.

Dr. Carl Schoenbeck, the new Vice President of Academic Affairs, estimates this process could take at least two years, "It would make this campus more compatible with other universities. Most higher education institutions are going to semesters, and the number is increasing. With the other Concordias switching over and current legislation, we have to look at this."

Other benefits for switching to semesters would be the opportunities for students. Most exchange programs with other schools or consor-

tia work on semesters; examples include HECUA (Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs) or the Lutheran College Washington Consortium. Students can be a part of these programs, but many have trouble because the quarters do not transfer easily. Schoenbeck also mentioned sharing a theatre program with Augsburg, or other private institutions, which would be much easier on a semester system. Registration and Financial Aid processing would take place only twice a year.

The looming question of finances also brings up tuition cost. Schoenbeck reassured students that there would be no change or increase in cost for students. However, one of the disadvantages for switching to semesters is the initial overhead expense for the school. The change in human resources, public resources, and computer systems may be expensive to get going. The other undesirable change would be smaller class selection. Schoenbeck fears that having fewer topics to choose from may disappoint some students. "With

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From Horror to Sweet Love

by Wendy FitzHenry & Marc Wedo
(for the last time...sniff!)

Village of the Damned is a remake of a black and white classic from the '50's called *Children of the Damned*. Eight women in the small town of Midwich mysteriously end up pregnant as the town experiences a mass-unconsciousness. The children grow up to be mind-controlling creatures who kill the entire town (starting with their own mothers). This dark, interesting thriller stars Christopher Reeve and Kirstie Alley as the doctors

who try to save the town from certain doom. Mark Hamill and Linda Koslowski (Mrs. Crocodile Dundee) provide supporting talent as parents of the demonic children.

If you are a real dark-sider, this could be the movie for you. However, don't look for Oscar-winning performances (unless they create a category for best use of glowing eyes), and the story is only interesting enough to pass the time. The ending is somewhat of a surprise (following the plot of the original movie), and the writers unfortunately left

themselves open for a sequel. You may want to wait and rent this one, it's not worth the \$6.75 and jumbo popcorn.

On a much lighter and happier side, *While You Were Sleeping* is the super-sweet date movie of the year. Sandra Bullock is making a name for herself in Hollywood and this film is most certainly helping her along. I don't know a single person who isn't "in love" with her charm, sweetness, personality, and innocence. She is a versatile actress (*Demolition Man* and *Speed* being her

other credits) who can do comedy just as well as heart-stopping thrillers. Bullock is what makes *While You Were Sleeping* so unforgettable. This Cinderella story is more entertaining than most, and actually is quite funny. Whether you go with friends or the one you love to *While You Were Sleeping*, make sure that you do go. This is one movie that you won't want to sleep through.†

The Hollywood Rumor Mill

By Wendy FitzHenry

This being the last issue of *The Sword* in which I will be gracing the pages, I thought I would leave you with a few pieces of showbiz gossip to ponder over the weeks ahead.

Kevin Costner's upcoming film *Waterworld* is now looking at a \$175 million bill (way over budget). Perhaps part of the money problem was because Costner's receding hairline had to be taken care of by computer morphing, creating a more youthful look for our aging star. Also con-

sidering altering her facial image is Barbra Streisand, who would like to morph down her trademark nose for a future film. (Morphing is the process that placed Tom Hanks in the oval office with JFK. It is the wave of the future in Hollywood FX.)

Speaking of special effects, my favorite movie, *Star Wars*, will be re-released with new scenes and updated FX in 1997 as a sort of prequel to three new *Star Wars* films. The new movies are in art reproduction right now, while George Lucas is taking a writing sabbatical to work out the

script. The plan is to shoot the three films back-to-back, with the first one coming out in 1998. These movies will focus on Anakin Skywalker becoming Darth Vader and the Clone Wars which led to many of the Rebel-Empire problems.

Also from Lucas, a new *Indiana Jones* film. The script is should be finished this month, with rewrites afterwards. Harrison Ford will return as the infamous Dr. Jones. I would expect this film in 1997 also, but that's just a guess.

And finally, for James Bond and Sean Connery fans...Mr. Connery has been asked to

play James Bond's father in a future Bond film. Pierce Brosnan has taken over as 007 (look for *Golden Eye* later this summer). Connery will do the deal if the script is good enough, and we can be sure that Sean will have no problem fitting into a Bond character of a slightly different type.

This summer looks like it will be one of the busiest in quite some time for big budget, big star flicks. Enjoy the movies this summer. Go often and see these films on the big screen (it seems only fitting, doesn't it?). This summer will be big, and you'll have lots to talk about when it's over.†

A & E News Release

May 26—Band "Pops" Concert, 3:30 in the Student Union.

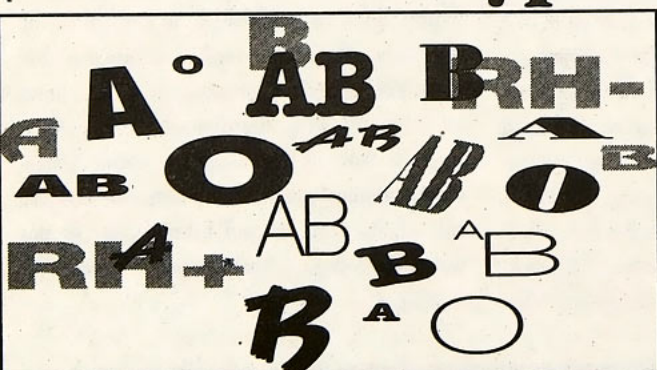
June 1—Bobby McFerrin, vocalist and conductor, will be performing at the Ordway Music Theatre at 8 p.m. It's one night only! Call 224-4222 for tickets.

June 2-September 9—*Northwest Airlines Music in the Wild* summer concerts at the Weesner Family Amphitheater in the fabulous

Minnesota Zoo. Tickets and exact time and dates can be obtained through the Minnesota Zoo Guest Services desk, Ticketmaster locations and the Ticketmaster charge-by-phone line at (612)989-5151.

July 21 and 22—Wheels as Art: The First Annual Art Car Rally at the 1995 LynLake Fair. There will be 25 art vehicle entries in a parade and exhibit in the Intermedia Arts parking lot. For more information, call (612) 627-4444.†

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Johann Walters & Jason Tweit
June 3

Melissa Fink & Bill Martchenke
June 3

Jennifer Riggert & Matthew Drees
June 10

Amy Cotton & Scott Arntson
July 15

Cheryl Biel & Daniel Durham
July 15

Karen Hames & Brett Benson
July 22

***Erland & Eleanor Heginbotham**
July 31

35th Anniversary
Kris Weisbrod & Brett Filstrup

August 5
Nicole Mueller & Rob Nelson

August 5
Karla Severeid & Christian Schiller

August 11
***Mike & Jen Fox**

August 22
2nd Anniversary

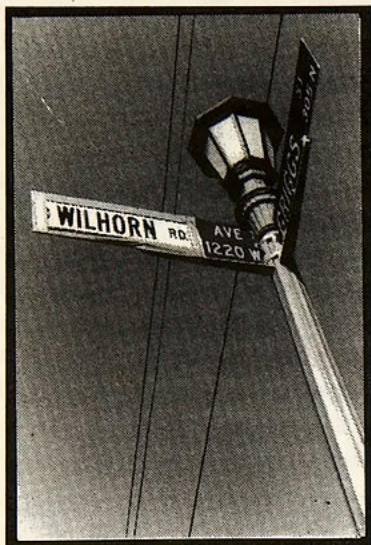
***Dan & Carrie Asmus**
August 23

10th Anniversary

**The Sword staff extends its
congratulations...**

Best Wishes and God's Blessings!

Some Final Thoughts



by Brian Wilhorn

For my final column as a writer for *The Sword*, I tried to come up with something shocking, provocative, inspirational, or at least pretty good. I can't guarantee that I did any of those. Who care's? What are they going to do, fire me? For the most part, I'm going to ramble on about what's on my mind and hopefully you can take one juicy tidbit of information home with you for the summer.

Sooner or later (I hope sooner), *Soul Asylum* will come out with a new album. It will be called *Let Your Dim Light Shine* and should be out around the last week of May or the first week of June. Their first single, "Misery," has been on the radio quite a bit lately, and you also may have seen them on *Letterman*. They did some song of which I didn't know the name and have only heard once, but it was cool.

Keep an eye out for the *Pearl Jam*/ *Neil Young* tour this summer. Congratulations to whoever can get tickets for any of those shows for a number of reasons. One, some no-name company is selling the tickets, two, they can't play any venues contracted with Ticketmaster, and three, it's Pearl Jam.

Question to contemplate: Hey Timmy, just what can you do with a sociology degree, anyway?

Have any of you heard that song, "I Kissed the Girl"? For those of you who haven't, it probably wouldn't seem too odd unless you knew it was sung by another girl. I just get a chuckle every time I hear it.

For those of you who are in the Twin Cities area over the summer: if you get up sometime before 9 am, make sure to check out the morning show on 92.5 KQRS. This morning show has to be

one of the funniest blocks of time on radio in the cities. It can make long morning commutes bearable, even enjoyable. Trust me.

Question to contemplate: Will the quiet floor really be quiet?

I have to put a plug in for two great friends, Jeff Weiss and Brian Oates. Their band, *Reflescent Tide*, recently signed a record deal with a small but quickly growing Christian label. They are recording in June and their first "real" album will be out in August. If any current Christian artists have the talent or ability to make it in the mainstream market, they can. I may be a little biased but I think that once you hear them you will agree with me.

Why is it that as much as I try to ignore baseball as a personal protest against greed and whiny millionaires, I still check the scores every night to see if the Brewers are still in first place? Who are these guys and how are they in first place anyway?

I have to say that what this newspaper needs is a good conservative column to speak the truth and balance the liberal drivel that somehow sneaks by every issue without recourse. Someone has to give you, the educated Concordia population, something to nod in agreement with as you read rather than shaking your head in confusion,

disgust, and complete befuddlement. I hope you are up to the task, Pete. Make all of your fellow Republicans proud.

Question to contemplate: Will Concordia really have inter-net access and cable?

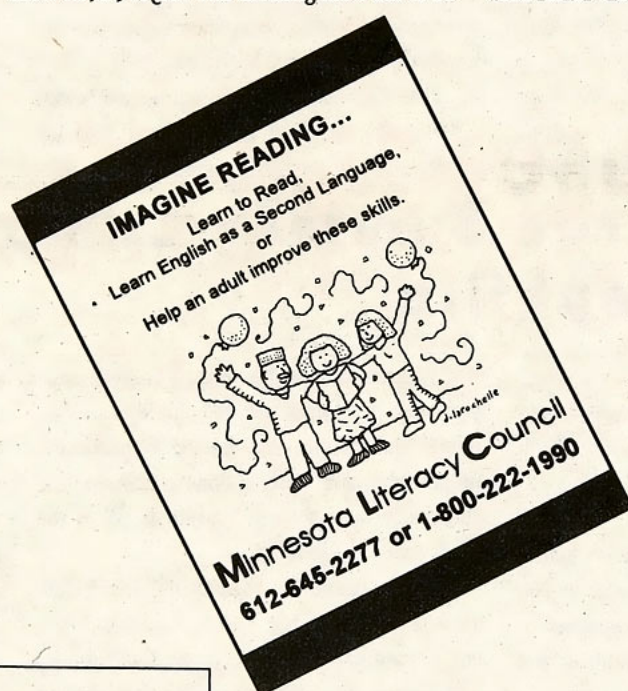
Would anyone disagree with me if I said that the best decision Concordia College has made in recent years is hiring Gerald Coleman as campus pastor? Didn't think so. Good luck, Pastor Coleman, the fields are ripe for harvest.

How come the best shows on TV are on Fox but it's not the best rated network? Make time for *X-Files* (Friday at 8 pm) and *The Simpsons* (Sunday at 7 pm, conveniently following the NFL in the fall).

Speaking of the NFL. The Packers will be in the Super Bowl come January 1996. That shouldn't surprise anyone; I predict that every year.

Since this is a music column, I should probably close with something musical. Whether you choose to listen to the kind of stuff I usually wrote about, country, jazz, classical, reggae, or whatever, there will always be something that each genre's artists do better than any other's.

Question to contemplate: Would you?†



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A Walk With a Visionary:

Pastor Coleman Calls Student Responsibility Key

by Theresa Monette

Pastor Gerald Coleman has begun his call to service at Concordia by getting to know the campus and people that make up our small community. Reminiscent of a gentle giant, Coleman's big heart and concern for others also gives him the air of being a tender-hearted lion. The Sword met with Pastor Coleman to discuss his hopes and goals for Concordia as Campus Minister.

Pastor Coleman envisions a campus ministry for Concordia as an inclusive structure set up to serve the whole campus population. For those whom he can not directly serve, he wants resources to be available and accessible. His theory is that students are the backbone of such a sys-

tem and that people are our most valuable resources in attaining an active campus ministry.

He sees student responsibility as the key to a successful campus ministry and says that just having a good campus pastor does not automatically create a good campus ministry. He thinks the biggest task in starting up a student-led ministry comes from providing enough opportunities for people to share their insights and abilities in ways that are suitable to them.

His personal goal for a campus ministry system would be to establish an on-going process. Therefore, when the ball is dropped by someone, there is always an opening on the field and a "player" ready to pick it back up again. In a student-run, student-centered environment, Pastor Coleman

sees himself as a shepherd, equiper, and an encourager. He views campus ministry in terms of concentric circles, the innermost of these being students taking care of one another. In a circular model, community is emphasized; faculty and staff feel more free to care for students and each other.

Maybe the best context in which to imagine Colman's vision would be that of a loss experienced by a student. In a situation such as this, a student usually returns to school experiencing initial support for one to two weeks while the pain, separation, and loss by that student continue to haunt him/her for much longer. If there were a way for the student-run ministry to establish itself and provide for situations like this one with on-

going support and prayer, then Coleman would realize part of his goal as pastor.

It is important to Gerald Coleman that the Concordia community realize how committed the college was to finding a campus pastor, and how that commitment and support has continued since Pastor Coleman's arrival. He loves our campus and sees many positive things happening here. Mostly he says he has been impressed by the caliber of the student body. Pastor Coleman says that the successes he hopes to realize at Concordia will be marked by small steps in the right direction. I think his footsteps can be heard already. †

Walking for All the Right Reasons

Walk for All the Right Reasons
by Jodi Riggert

"As many as 17,000 Minnesotans are living with HIV and have not yet tested for the virus. It is estimated that 3,000 people in Minnesota are currently living with HIV or AIDS. 14,000 Minnesotans have died from AIDS." These jaw-dropping, frightening facts are printed in the Eighth Annual AIDS Walk flyers.

Maybe you've seen these pamphlets sitting on the front desk at the Student Union. Maybe you've even fingered through them and then threw them to the side; however, "There are a hundred million reasons why you should participate in the AIDS Walk," says Steve Winter, director of the 1995 fund-raising affair. Not only does participating in the walk help to support the Minnesota AIDS project in its effort to establish prevention and educational programs, but it also is a fabulous opportunity to learn more about and become involved in a great cause.

Beginning and ending at Minnehaha Park, registration starts at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 21.

People of all ages, and even pets, are encouraged to participate, and prizes will be awarded to the adults, children, teams, and pets who have pledged the most money that day.

The walk is a gorgeous one as it goes along both sides of the Mississippi River. Six rest stops are situated along the route, along with pick-up

vans for individuals who grow a little weary on the way. Free food and drink is also provided, and informational tents sponsored by twenty-one different organizations will be set up.

The Minnesota AIDS Walk grows yearly with 7,000 people involved last year and \$584,000 raised. It is anticipated that the number of partic-

ipants will grow and funds raised will break \$600,000. To become involve in this worthwhile and exciting activity, pick up a pledge form at the Student Union's front desk. †

A Worry-Free Summer Camp for Children with Hemophilia

News Release

(submitted by Michael Hehr, chairperson for the annual Minnesota Hemophilia Foundation fund-raiser)

As you may be aware, hemophilia is a hereditary clotting disorder that affects over 20,000 Americans. There is no cure. People with hemophilia require lifelong, expensive treatment not normally covered by insurance.

Many of those afflicted with hemophilia are children. Our group is looking to raise money to

send some of these children to a worry-free summer camp. The funds will also be used to see that others can continue treatment and to see that the proper education is being done concerning the emergency care of these individuals. All of the funds raised stay local!

We are organizing a variety of events including a raffle, a bake sale, cookout, pledge drives, etc. to raise money for this cause. I will also be participating in an eight mile walk-a-thon on June 10 in Kankakee, Illinois.

We are asking our friends in the community

to help us by donating a prize to our raffle or a simple cash donation can be made to the cause. Each and every prize, service or cash donation is tax deductible, and you will receive a receipt.

We would appreciate any contribution you are able to make. Arrangements can be made to pick items up. If you have any questions or if you desire pick up of your donation please feel free to contact me at 646-2556. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. †

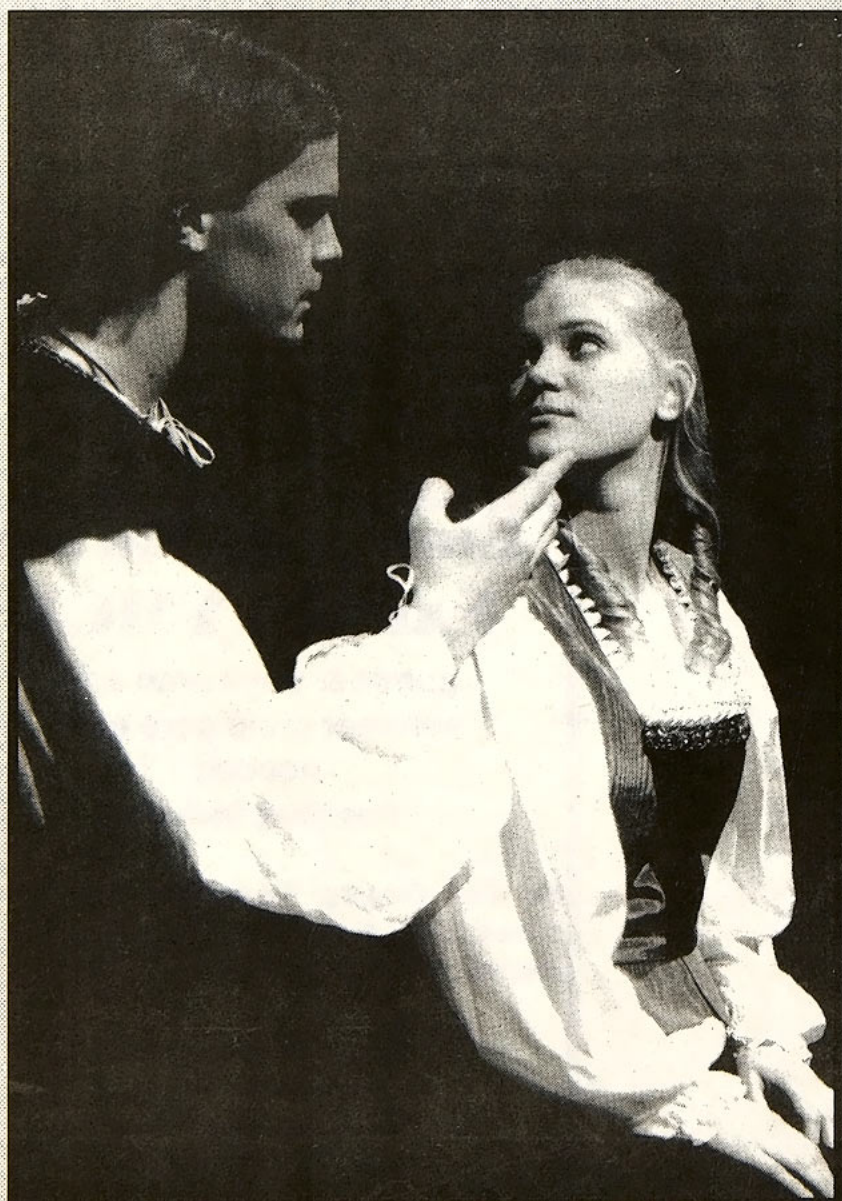
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Lovers, Heroes and Fools



A Successful Season Ends, Leaving an Uncertain Future

by Jason Wolter

The Concordia baseball team has concluded its season, compiling a 25-17-1 record (8-2 in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference). After starting the season like a runaway train, the Comets experienced a few minor derailments later on, before finally coming to an abrupt halt in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Midwest Sub-Regional Tournament. The Comets were eliminated in the second game of the double-elimination tourney held in Sioux City, Iowa. Along the way, the team won many of its games, set a few records and raised questions about the future.

The fifth-seeded Comets opened the tournament against second-seeded Mount Marty College. The Comet players showed signs of play-off nervousness, playing below their capabilities. They lost by a score of 12-5. In their second game

the Comets shook off their opening game jitters and exploded for eight runs in the first inning. Although they would not score any more runs, the lead looked safe; however, the pitching was not able to keep the Teikyo-Westmar players off the base paths. Brett Reem pitched valiantly, but his arm eventually gave out, as did Concordia's bullpen. By the time the dust had cleared, Teikyo-Westmar had earned a 12-8 victory. With that second loss, the Comets' tournament, and season, was over.

Prior to their trip to Iowa, the Comets swept doubleheaders against Augsburg and Pillsbury. They beat Bethel 4-2, and split games with Macalester, DMLC, and Mt. Scenario. The losses to DMLC and Mt. Scenario caused the hopes for another UMAC title to evaporate. It was the first time in five years that Concordia was not the UMAC champion. The second place finish was a huge disappointment, since most observers

picked the Comets to walk through the conference undefeated. On the positive side, however, they did break the school record for wins in a season, with 25. Some individual records were broken, too. Senior Chris Klein broke the single-season record for homeruns, hitting 10. The previous record was 6. Pitcher Dave Johnson set the school record for wins in a season, tallying 8. The record had been 7. Final statistics for the entire team was not available as this article goes to press.

The number of quality players that will have left within the last two years leaves serious questions about the future of Concordia's baseball team. Coach Streitz has a few holes to plug before next year. For example, including the players lost last year, the Comets have lost the following: their best hitter (SS Dustin Trombley), their best power hitter (3B Chris Klein), a .300 hitter and starting second baseman (J.D. Daniels), their best first baseman ever (Jerod Nelson), and their number

one pitcher (Brett Reem). Now, freshman sensation, Dave Johnson is expected to move to third base and solidify the "hot corner" for years to come. But, who else is there? Pitcher Scott Boettcher has proven he can win, but has been inconsistent. Shortstop Tim Ryan looked like a star before going into a late season slump, and catcher Jon Medlo has been steadily improving on both offense and defense, but beyond these four players there are a lot of questions. Remember, though, Coach Streitz is a winner. He'll find a way to field a highly competitive team next year. The answers lie beneath the warm Florida sun, and next spring he'll find them. Congratulations fellas on a record-setting year! †

Softball Team's Late Season Run Lands Just Foul

by Patrick Marsh

The year has come to a close for our women's softball team. It was a trying season for the women as they had just one person to fill the sidelines at game time. This lack of "numbers" was the main reason for a less than noteworthy record.

One of the problems with not having many players is having just one pitcher, Heather Miller. She is an excellent pitcher, but playing double headers and not having a reliever in the bullpen could only add to the immense task she had. By the second game most teams could pick up on her pitching style. Heather did a great job by her-

self, but a back-up would have been a welcome addition.

Last weekend the women finished the season in style. They attended the NAIA Sectional Playoffs and did quite well. They went into the playoffs ranked third but still had their sights set on the championship. Their first game was a challenge against number two ranked UM-Morris.

The Comets were defeated, but came right back against the number four seed, St. Scholastica. The Comet's defeated the Saints and looked forward to a rematch with Morris the following day.

The women came out swinging the next day

and knocked Morris out of their way. They went on to face number one Moorehead State, but it was more than they could handle.

They ended the season well and proved that they were a worthy team—even with their small squad size. They look forward to next year and welcome additional players. Concordia is proud of the team and its dedication.

Editor's Note:


The Comet softballers rode a roller coaster ride this season. They got off to a hot start, but hit a rut as they traveled through California and into Iowa where they played against exceptional com-


petition. However, they had a very strong finish as they won the Comet Classic (featuring three Wisconsin state schools: Eau Claire, River Falls and Superior), and they made a run in the NAIA district tourney before losing to Moorehead state in the championship round.

In the NAIA tourney, the Comets startled each of their three MIAC foes as they posted victories against Bethel, Macalester and MIAC champion St. Olaf. The team has also placed five women on the NAIA all-district team. Congratulations! †




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by Ryan Smith

A new energy has surrounded Concordia athletics this past year, and it has been powerful—220 volts right up the...

Yep, a perpetual wave of negative energy seems to be sweeping across our campus, and has stockpiled in the home of the Comets, Gangelhoff Center.

This surge has even hit me as I have been critical of the usage of Gangelhoff

Center. In fact, I wrote a column earlier in the year blasting Concordia's decision makers for not making Gangelhoff Center available for student use. It has become an ordeal.

Looking back, I wonder what attitudes we would have had if this energy had been harnessed for a different purpose—perhaps towards a positive solution. Would a wave of positive energy still flow in, out, and around the doors of Gangelhoff Center? Let's find out.

As a stepping stone to combat this negative energy, I would like to share with the Concordia community many of the positive improvements that Concordia has developed in its recent past.

In the four years that I have been at Concordia, there have been marked improvements in many of our athletic programs. Possibly the greatest single contributing factor to these successes is Gangelhoff Center.

I played two years of basketball in the frozen tundra of the LMC, and though the rims there were very generous and forgiving, Gangelhoff Center is in a league of its own.

The LMC housed a gym, weight room, classroom, training room, locker rooms, and a few offices. By comparison, Gangelhoff Center houses a field house with four full-sized basketball courts and indoor track and field facilities (which have

allowed Concordia to field a team for the first time in ages), two racquetball courts, a strength and conditioning room, a classroom, improved training facilities, locker rooms, and an office center. Gangelhoff Center is also the location of a new baseball and softball complex. Wow.

To say this facility is less than adequate is a falsehood—including the strength and conditioning room, which has been under the greatest amount of criticism.

Contrary to popular opinion, the strength and conditioning room in Gangelhoff Center is not an awful weight room. In fact, it is many times better than the weight training facilities than that of its predecessor.

After visiting another small college in the area, I have found that our weight training facility is not the worst of its kind. Hamline University's weight room is a long, dark, dungeonous hallway tucked in beneath the east bleachers. It's missing its share of dumbbells and the vinyl covers of the benches are tattered and torn. It is a pit.

Moreover, improvements have been made in Gangelhoff Center's strength and conditioning room. Mirrors were finally added after students voiced their concern, and the missing dumbbells finally were replaced. An incline bench from the LMC has been moved in, and a spotter's stand was added.

Wait, there's more. Concordia's baseball team finally had a home field of their very own behind Gangelhoff Center this season, and an electronic scoreboard was added behind the centerfield wall. It will take some time for the field to mature and develop into a truly beautiful ballpark, but it is much better than what was here—nothing. Plans are set for a softball field where the soccer field was this past year.

Don't worry soccer players. Capitol Gears

has been flattened, and it appears that a soccer/football field will rest on this plot.

Speaking of soccer, Concordia's women's soccer has arrived as a college-sponsored varsity sport. This is a first since I have been on campus. The team played its first full schedule in 1994. The men's soccer team has also made strides in the last four years. Correct me if I'm wrong, but four years ago the team was lucky to score a goal. Recently they set a school record for wins. In fact, many of our athletic teams have recently set school records in the win column.

The men's basketball chalked up its first 20-win season during the 1993-94 campaign, the volleyball team set their record this past year, and the baseball team is coming off its finest season. Good things are happening.

One of the best decisions that the athletic department has made in the past four years was the decision to leave the always-tough-UMAC in favor of independent status. This decision takes affect next year for all of our athletic teams, except for football.

This means that Concordia teams can beef up their schedules, and with tougher competition comes many things: a heightened level of play, an improved recruiting base, and RESPECT—something that seems to be lacking from all angles.

It all adds up to a major improvement in athletic facilities for, and performance by, Concordia teams in just a few short years. Imagine where Concordia could be in four more years. So to all of you CSP fans and athletes, you need to make only one decision...to be, or not to be, a part of all of this progress.†

It's your decision.

See ya next year,
Smiffy

Truc Bi Tran Represents Concordia in National Table Tennis Tourney



by Heather Gifford

When Truc Bi Tran was asked by Dan Asmus to play in a regional table tennis tournament at the University of Minnesota, she had not picked up her paddle and played more than a few times in the past year. When she arrived at the tournament, she wondered if she could compete: all the competitors were men dressed in table tennis attire while Truc was dressed casually.

She felt as though none of the male competitors took her seriously; in fact, only one warmed up with her—an American boy who was "not very good." But as soon as Tran began playing, and despite the small amount of time she spent warming up, the competition began to take her very seriously. Tran went on to win every match, making her the regional champion.

The regional tournament consisted of competitors from several states in the Midwest. The United States is divided into 13 regions. Minnesota is part of Region 10. Each region is able to send its top four male and female table tennis players.

In most regions, especially in the North, there are few female competitors, and generally these regions only send one or two women.

Tran was the overall champion of Region 10 and advanced to the National Tournament in Atlanta, GA. Region 10 paid for her expenses while in Atlanta but would not cover her airfare. Concordia was proud of having a champion ping-pong player, so the college supported her and raised the money to pay for her plane ticket.

The national tournament was a single elimination tournament. Tran made it to the semi-

finals. In the semi-final match she lost to the woman who eventually won her second straight national championship, but Tran was recognized as the fourth best female table tennis player in the country.

Tran has a vast table tennis background. In Vietnam, Tran's homeland, she is a member of a professional table tennis group. She has received several honors while competing at the professional level. She is most proud of being selected to compete in a tournament featuring the top players in Asia.

Next year Truc Bi Tran hopes to compete again, but this time she hopes to practice a little more. A little practice may be all she needs to become the national champion. †

OPINION

Dear Christians, Americans, and Concordia Students

On Wednesday, April 26, 1995, while most of the students here at Concordia were either sleeping or in class, an event which would shake the entire nation took place in Oklahoma City. A simple item, fertilizer, which many farming families across the nation use to boost life in the form of agriculture, was twisted in such a way that it could be used to take close to two hundred innocent lives.

On that fateful morning, it was not just a federal building which crumbled. The lives of countless American families were destroyed as the stories of this building collapsed upon one another. Many people in America's heartland, as well as throughout the country, will never be able to live their lives in the same way again.

Even innocent children were not excluded from the terror. Could the next Einstein or Bach have been in that second floor day care center? For all we will ever know, one of those children could have been the first to reach the outer reaches of the universe, or find the cure for Cancer and AIDS. Now they will never have the

chance to reach their full potential. They died before they could even have a chance to contribute to society.

As I follow the plight of the people in Oklahoma City—and the effects of the incident on America—I find myself constantly being disturbed by what I see and hear. I am most troubled by the responses I hear from fellow Americans when they are asked, "What do you think should happen to the men who did this?" Many wish that "they could be the one to pull the switch." One man on live television put it in two simple and very upsetting words: "Public hanging."

As I hear these things coming from the mouths of my fellow Americans, I find myself wondering what exactly is happening to the people of this great country. Why do we always feel that we have to end death with more death? Now I would not be one to argue with anyone who said that the people responsible for the bombing in Oklahoma City have done a very terrible thing. I would not argue, because I totally agree.

However, what I really want to ask the people

in America is this: What possible gain could anyone achieve from putting these two men to death? The people who died in the bombing would still be dead, and their families would still grieve for them just as much. The only thing that will have been accomplished will be the termination of two more human lives. I believe that the only reasonable course of action is to put these men away for a very, very long time. At least then they will have time to think about what they did, and possibly even regret it.

Now, many students are probably wondering what this has to do with them. The answer is simple: everything. We all live in the United States of America, and as Americans (not to mention Christians) we are required to carry some of these people's grief on our own shoulders. This is a very serious event in American history which should not be taken lightly. Unfortunately, as I read "Concordia Speaks" in the April 28 issue of *The Sword*, I began to realize that many students at Concordia are not taking this event as seriously as they should be.

At this point in

time, I don't believe that the future of terrorism in the U.S. is of any paramount concern. After all, bombings like the one in Oklahoma take a great deal of planning and preparation. Just because a successful bombing occurs in the U.S. doesn't mean that every terrorist (or militia) group is going to go out, buy some fertilizer and fuel oil, and blow something up. I don't believe that one bombing has any real relevancy in relation to past or future ones.

With all of that said, all I ask the students at Concordia to do is to try to take this incident seriously. Don't just forget it until the end of the year and then say "Oh yeah, I remember that." when you see old footage on some Year In Review news show. Be empathetic, sympathetic, and remember that if the bombing had happened in Minnesota, it could just as easily have been *your* family or *your* children inside that building.†

Sincerely,

Marc Wedo

Does the Concordia Community Support Its Athletes? (Part III)

by Jason Wolter

...Finally, there should be concern over the obvious lack of support for athletes. I will just briefly mention the fan support, because it is so "Minnesotan". (Translation: If they are doing really well, then I'll go watch. Otherwise...who cares?) That is true for many sports (football, basketball, soccer, etc.), but what about volleyball, softball and baseball? These are three sports in which Concordia has either dominated area teams, or at least played them competitively. Yet, few fans ever turn out for these competitions. I have no explanation, other than this. People on this campus take very little pride in the college. Therefore, they could care less whether the volleyball team had won 40- some games in a row, or 30 in a row for the baseball team. This campus is notorious for its apathetic attitude towards everything; sports is no exception. Sadly, I see fans from other schools taking much more pride in their athletics than we do. If DMLC or Pillsbury can support their teams (which are terrible), why can't students at CSP go to a few games now and then? It's possible that this trend is changing, but if it is, then it is going very slowly.

Then there is the more serious problem of the support of faculty and staff. According to a couple of coaches, many athletes, and even me, there is discrimination that goes on against athletes by certain professors and staff members. This, to me, is ridiculous!

It's one thing if a student gets a \$15,000 scholarship to play basketball, then takes classes on desert swamps management, insomniac's dream interpretations, and underwater basket weaving. Maybe they do not deserve the support and understanding of faculty, since they make no

movement toward graduation. But, at CSP there are no scholarships, we pay \$15,000 to go here, and there are no easy classes like The History of Peanut Butter 101. As a matter of fact, most coaches force their players to attend classes and punish those who skip. It is not all professors that are against athletics any more than it is true that all athletes are bad students. As a matter of fact, players are required to maintain a certain GPA in order to play. If they drop below it, they cannot play. If anything, athletics pushes many students to work hard in class.

I'd like to raise one last point. Professors are concerned with teaching students useful information for their futures. Aren't perseverance, patience, concentration, team work, and dedication be considered useful lessons of life? Since both athletics and academics strive to improve and enrich students, why do some professors look at it as a "one or the other" situation? I would hope that faculty would feel comfortable attending a game, and cheerfully support their students in this endeavor. But, if they cannot or will not do this, I sincerely hope that they will not, at the very least, put up obstacles up, keeping the student-athlete from success.

One coach put the lack of support this way, "If the administration does not want the athletic department to succeed, they should be honest about it. That way they can save a lot of people their time and energy. Players and coaches can stop trying to win games, and just go through the motions."

At this time I'd like to reiterate a point that I made at the beginning of this series. All the gifts and talents that God has given us are important and worthy of support. I am not in any way saying that athletics is more deserving of support than any of the other extra-curricular activities. It is my

opinion that athletics is a great way to develop community, recruit students, and build pride in our college. I would hope that all areas of student activities would be well-supported and attended. I can only write about what I know, though, and that is sports. Unless someone finally steps for-

ward and says, "Athletics are an important aspect of Concordia-St. Paul, and we need to make more of a commitment to them," then Concordia will never be more than a mediocre college with great gossip. †

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